

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0014] of the specification as follows:

[0014] Methods of the present invention provide means for fabricating an implantable medical device having at least one porous layer. Generally, the methods involve providing an implantable medical device containing an alloy and removing at least one component of the alloy to form the porous layer. In some embodiments, an alloy may first be deposited on an implantable device and one or more components of the alloy may then be removed to form the porous layer. Such methods are often referred to as "dealloying." For a general description of dealloying methods, reference may be made to "Evolution of nanoporosity in dealloying," Jonah Erlebacher et al., Nature 410, pp. 450-453, March 2001, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. Dealloying a layer of an implantable device provides a nanoporous sponge layer, which may then be infused with one or more therapeutic agents for providing delivery of an agent into a patient via the device. The nanoporous sponge layer may be characterized morphologically as coalesced clusters or islands interconnected by ligament structures. Use of dealloying methods will typically provide more adherent and mechanically robust porous layers on medical implantables than are currently available, while also simplifying device manufacture.